

Allison-Moore-Crump Building
1309 East Main St.
Richmond
Virginia

HABS NO. VA-846
HABS
VA
44-RICH
95-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ALLISON-MOORE-CRUMP BUILDING

VA

44-RICH

95-

Location: 1309 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia

Present Owner and Occupant: Benjamin T. Crump Company, Inc.

Present Use: Manufacturing and distribution of riding equipment

Statement of Significance: Built as a typical commercial building sometime before 1863, the Allison-Moore-Crump Building remains from the nineteenth-century commercial atmosphere of Main Street.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1832
2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is a chain of title to the land on which the structure was built.

1832 William Allison bought the property known as 1309 East Main Street from John Gibson, Jr.

1863 The property known as 1309 East Main Street was allotted to Ann Allison in the division of the estate of William Allison. The property is referred to in item "m" as a "large brick tenement" between 13th and Pearl Street, backing to Exchange Alley on the south side of Main Street, and was valued at \$50,000 (D. B. 103A, 281).

1877-1888 Building occupied by Millhiser and Company, wholesale dry goods and notions.

1905 The property known as 1309 East Main Street was awarded to Thomas L. Moore in Allison v. Allison 19 December. The building is referred to as a "brick store" valued at \$22,000 with a rental value of \$1,680 per annum (D. B. 189B, 69).

1939 The property was purchased by the Benjamin T. Crump Corporation from the estate of Thomas L. Moore (D. B. 417A, 248). Crump Corporation had been renting the building since the mid-1890's.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Deed book references

in Richmond City Hall.

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Prepared by J. R. Fishburne
Research Historian
9 May 1969

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building is a good example of late-nineteenth century commercial architecture on Main Street. Its use of iron detail is relatively limited compared to the complete iron fronts in the 1000 and 1200 blocks, but the windows with arched iron lintels, heavy iron cornice and large first-floor iron store openings link it with the other surviving structures of the period.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: North front, approximately 27-1/2 feet, four bays, four stories; depth, approximately 171-1/2 feet; about 107 feet from the front, the west wall projects west 18-1/2 feet and continues south about 69 feet to the rear south wall; south wall is 44 feet wide; at approximately 111 feet from front wall the east wall is recessed 1-1/2 feet and continues about 60 feet to the south wall; rear part of building south of the projection is two stories.
2. Foundations: Brick laid in American bond.
3. Wall construction: Brick; five iron posts support the upper stories of stuccoed brick on north (Cary Street) front.
4. Framing: Closely spaced wooden floor joists are set in the brick wall. Wooden posts with impost blocks in basement support a heavy center beam running front to rear into which longitudinal joists are set. The first story has cylindrical iron posts along a long beam, and in the rear, past the projection of the west wall and on a line with the forward portion of the west wall, are tall, slender fluted iron columns. Both upper floors use wooden posts with impost blocks.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Front entrance on west end of front facade has a door composed of a wooden frame holding a glass panel. The entrance is framed by pilasters and a plain frieze.

- b. Windows: The store front is composed of three large single-paned windows with three rectangular lights above each bay. Five iron Corinthian pilasters with decorative rectangular insets flank the windows and door and support consoles on an otherwise plain frieze. The modillioned cornice is supported by the consoles and features a water leaf pattern on the bed and crown moldings. The upper three stories of four bays have iron arched lintels over windows with two-over-two sash.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The low pitched roof is covered with tin and flanked by low parapet walls.
- b. Cornice: Projecting iron cornice with five consoles.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: Partition separates the front office from the rear working area at approximately 100 feet from the front. The enclosed stair on east wall provides access to the basement and upper floors.
- b. Second floor: Open work area with enclosed stair on west wall for ascent to third floor.
- c. Third and fourth floors: Again, open work area which include only the front 100 feet of the building, the rear portion being but two stories high. Stairs are on the west wall.

2. Stairways: All stairs are enclosed by walls of vertical boarding and have a plain circular iron rail and wooden treaders. The elevator addition on the east wall runs from the basement to the fourth floor.

3. Flooring: Hardwood floors are used throughout with diagonal boarding on the second and parts of the first floor.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plastered on the first and front half of the second floors. Otherwise, exposed brick walls are used. Pressed metal ceilings are used on the first and second floors.

5. Doorways and doors: Most interior doors are new, otherwise being extremely plain.

6. Decorative features and trim: None, except for simple

rectangular design of the pressed metal ceilings.

7. Notable hardware: None.
8. Lighting: Modern electrical lighting.
9. Heating: Gas heat.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Although the area to the west of the structure is now a parking lot, the buildings to the east date from the same period. The building is on the south side of steep East Maine Street, whose store-lined hill runs from Fourteenth up to Fifth Streets.

Prepared by Tucker H. Hill
Architectural Historian
Virginia Historic
Landmarks Commission
9 May 1969

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the Richmond Photo-Data Project, undertaken in 1967 by HABS in cooperation with the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. During the period from July, 1967 to October, 1969, records were made of 11 historic structures in Richmond. The project primarily recorded examples of the cast-iron commercial architecture for which the city is known, though other building types are also included.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey. James W. Moody, Jr., Executive Director, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, directed the operation in Richmond. Professor Paul Delaney of the University of Virginia School of Architecture assisted in the selection of subjects covered. Historical and architectural data were furnished by Messrs. Tucker Hill and Calder Loth, Architectural Historians of the Commission's staff. Photographer was Edward F. Heite, also on the staff of the Commission.